

EPA REGION III

◇ Office of Public Affairs

◇◇ PM Headlines

Monday, March 19, 2012

***** PM HOT LIST *****

Broadcaster responsible for clean-up

HAZLETON STANDARD-SPEAKER Responsibility for offsetting damage done to the Blue Mountain by nearly 90 years of zinc smelting fell to a company known for television broadcasting. Mergers made CBS successor to companies including New Jersey Zinc and Horseheads that smelted zinc at Palmerton from 1898 to 1980. CBS pays for replanting land by aircraft and more conventional landscaping. Federal Project Manager Charlie Root said CBS and three other companies are part of the settlement. They include two firms affiliated with Horseheads and TCI Pacific Communications, which has contractual relations with CBS, Root said. In the agreement, CBS and its predecessors also donated 1,100 acres worth \$8.72 million as part of the agreement. The land is about 35 miles from Blue Mountain has become part of State Game Land 168 in Monroe County. CBS paid \$9.875 million in cash and contributed \$2.5 million to assess damage costs, according to the agreement. A \$330,000 mortgage for the Lehigh Gap Nature Center also was paid through the agreement. Root doesn't know how much CBS spent in total. Spokesman Jeff Groy did not return a telephone call.

Airplane missions help replant defiled land on Blue Mountain

HAZLETON STANDARD-SPEAKER An airplane heads away from the Blue Mountain after spraying seed and fertilizer in an operation that helps return greenery to the Carbon County land stripped of plants by fallout from the zinc plant in Palmerton. SLATINGTON - Seed spread by airplanes is reviving plant life atop the Blue Mountain in Carbon County where metal dust deadly to plants used to fall from the sky. Last week, planes taking off from the Slatington Airport swooped over the mountain and dispensed seed, fertilizer and lime on acres left barren by fallout from the former zinc smelting plant in Palmerton. Dropping seeds from the air does less damage to the area that includes spurs of the Appalachian Trail and state game land than would building a road that a landscaping crew could travel when re-planting the land. "It was probably better to minimize the impact and do aerial application," said Charlie Root, who manages the project to restore the land for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

"Hades" to Be Unearthed in Contaminated Spring Valley Neighborhood

DCIST The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has spent the past two decades trying to clean up the remnants of a World War I-era weapons-testing range located in what is today the upscale Northwest D.C. neighborhood of

Spring Valley. And, according to a report in The New York Times yesterday, cleanup teams might finally be zeroing in on one of the nexuses of the damage by demolishing a stately brick house that might be on top of a chemical burial pit nicknamed "Hades." By figuratively unleashing Hell, Corps of Engineers teams working on Spring Valley's decontamination might find a major stockpile of early-20th-century mustard gas canisters that many believe damaged the soil and made residents susceptible to respiratory and endocrine diseases that can be traced to arsenic.

Zeroing In on Mystery of an Old Site Called Hades

NEW YORK TIMES WASHINGTON — For decades, affluent families have flocked to Spring Valley, a quiet neighborhood hugging the northwestern boundary of the nation's capital. True to its name, magnolias are blooming and daffodils carpet the yards. But during World War I, soldiers called it Death Valley. It was here that the Army cooked up chemical weapons, launched poison-packed mortar shells and sent gas clouds billowing over the fields. When the war ended, soldiers buried the fearsome chemicals and munitions in pits that the Army forgot existed. Now, the cleanup of what was known as the American University Experiment Station is nearing a crucial point. This spring, the Army Corps of Engineers plans to tear down a house that may be atop a lost burial pit that an Army sergeant called "Hades" in a grainy 1918 photograph.

Nockamixon gas drilling proposal tests new state law

ALLENTOWN MORNING CALL Nockamixon to fight law that supersedes local zoning barriers to gas drilling. Rapp Creek, shallow and clear, spills down a rock outcropping and burbles through the woods a few yards from Janie and Larry Stangil's back deck in Nockamixon Township, a few hundred feet from the proposed site of a natural gas drilling operation. Thousands of gas wells have popped up across central and western Pennsylvania as oil and gas companies moved to tap enormous deposits in the Marcellus and Utica shale formations, but no one has ever drilled in Nockamixon, let alone Bucks County, and the Stangils would prefer it stays that way.

School districts cope with gas boom

CENTRE DAILY TIMES UNIVERSITY PARK — Rapid, large-scale development of the Marcellus Shale is having an impact on many Pennsylvania school districts, education experts said at a conference Thursday intended to offer information on coping with the gas boom. Thursday's conference, "Understanding and Preparing for Marcellus Shale Impacts in Your School District," attracted superintendents, school board members and education officials from across the commonwealth, as well as Ohio and New York Experts from Penn State warned districts to expect more traffic, worse roads and little new funding, but also more job opportunities for graduates. "There's a firestorm coming their way, and anything they can do to prepare for it is important," said Barry Scheetz, a professor of civil engineering at Penn State who has studied the impact the gas industry has had on Pennsylvania's roads. "If they can learn from here what to expect, they're going to be far, far better off."

Study shows air emissions near fracking sites may impact health

SCIENCE CODEX AURORA, Colo. -- In a new study, researchers from the Colorado School of Public Health have shown that air pollution caused by hydraulic fracturing or fracking may contribute to acute and chronic health problems for those living near natural gas drilling sites. "Our data show that it is important to include air pollution in the national dialogue on natural gas development that has focused largely on water exposures to hydraulic fracturing," said Lisa McKenzie, Ph.D., MPH, lead author of the study and research associate at the Colorado School of Public Health. The study will be published in an upcoming edition of *Science of the Total Environment*.

DEQ says time running out for Altavista to address PCB contamination

GODANRIVER.COM Since 2000, the Town of Altavista has been trying to figure out how to remove the

toxic contaminants stuck beneath a six-acre pond less than 300 feet from the Staunton River. Now, for the Department of Environmental Quality at least, it soon may be too late. Altavista has been under voluntary DEQ oversight for more than 10 years. In the most recent revision of its contract with the state, the town agreed to have the PCBs, or polychlorinated biphenyls, removed from the municipal wastewater pond by early 2014 at the latest. The PCBs, which have been present for decades thanks to now-defunct manufacturing industries, don't put residents at great risk for exposure, but are well above federally acceptable levels.

Exemptions to Pa. Clean Indoor Air Act are unfair, unsafe

ALLENTOWN MORNING CALL Why do some Lehigh and Northampton County hospitality workers have to choose between health and a paycheck? The Clean Indoor Air Act implemented in 2008 was a huge victory for most Pennsylvanians. I say "most" because employees at more than 2,800 hospitality venues in the state still have to breathe secondhand smoke on the job. Despite strong public opposition, casinos, taverns and private club owners are allowed by law — or rather, an exemption to the law — to permit smoking in their establishments. Lehigh County has 47 exemptions, including 31 directly in the city of Allentown. Northampton County has 47 exemptions, including the Sands Casino Resort Bethlehem. As a result, these establishments get to live by their own set of rules that force workers to breathe in secondhand smoke on a daily basis. It would seem that a worker's right to breathe clean indoor air stops at the front door of those enjoying exemptions to the law.

Environmental group begins second phase of Delaware City air monitoring project

MIDDLETOWN TRANSCRIPT Delaware City, Del. — The second phase of a project monitoring the air quality near the Delaware City Refinery kicked off Wednesday and will continue for the next two weeks. Last March the Delaware City Environmental Coalition monitored the air quality in the same area to get a baseline reading while the refinery was still closed, Sarah Bucic, founder of DCEC and a Delaware City resident said. The results in this year's test will be compared to the previous ones to see the change in air quality since the refinery's re-opening. "We do the same two weeks each year," Bucic said. "Now that [the refinery] is up and running, we can capture the before and after data."

***** MORNING HOT LIST *****

EPA not yet 'drawing conclusions' about full Dimock picture

SCRANTON TIMES-DISPATCH Federal environmental regulators said Friday that they are "not drawing any conclusions" about whether the first 11 Dimock Twp. water test results they described Thursday are representative of the 61 water wells sampled in the town. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency released a statement Thursday saying that results from the first 11 homes sampled "did not show levels of contamination that could present a health concern," but that it will perform additional sampling at three homes currently receiving replacement water and two homes where arsenic was detected. The first test results represent about a sixth of the data collected by the EPA between Jan. 23 and Feb. 15 during sampling in an area of Dimock where the agency is investigating the potential impact of nearby natural gas drilling on water supplies. EPA spokesman Roy Seneca said Friday that the results released so far represent only the sampling performed during the week of Jan. 23. "EPA is not drawing any conclusions at this time" about the entirety of the Dimock sampling, he said.

Initial results of EPA water study released

WEST VIRGINIA STATE JOURNAL Initial test results of drinking water in several Dimock, Pa., homes show no signs of dangerous pollution. Residents in the community had expressed concerns that their water was

being contaminated by nearby Marcellus shale drilling operations. The federal Environmental Protection Agency said it would test approximately 60 homes in one part of Dimock. Tests began on Jan. 19. "The first round of sampling results is now available for the first 11 homes that were tested during the week of Jan. 23. Sampling results from these 11 homes did not show levels of contamination that could present a health concern," the EPA said in a released statement. "Samples from six of the 11 homes did show concentrations of sodium, methane, chromium or bacteria, but concentrations were all within the safe range for drinking water. The sampling results also identified the presence of arsenic at two homes." Three of the homes tested had been receiving drinking water from the EPA, which will continue until testing is complete.

Environmentalists Critical of EPA's Dimock Results, EPA Releases Sampling Plan

STATEIMPACT Environmental groups say the EPA jumped the gun by releasing only a handful of Dimock water results before all households' tests were complete. The Sierra Club issued a statement Thursday night declaring their support for the residents along Carter road who say Cabot Oil and Gas caused their water wells to run foul. "Again today, the cry for clean water in Dimock was left unheard and Cabot Corp must be held accountable for the destruction they caused," said Sierra Club's Deb Nardone, in a press release. "The victim families of Dimock know that their water isn't fit to drink, and the Sierra Club will stand by them until we find a permanent solution." Water Defense, a group started by actor Mark Ruffalo, had a more extensive critique of the EPA's actions.

Our View: Good and bad news on the Chesapeake Bay

SALISBURY DAILY TIMES We're halfway to recovery but more effort is needed. After decades of effort, redirection, study and planning, the good news is that Maryland is more than halfway to achieving its Chesapeake Bay restoration goals, according to the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. But whenever good news is cited, there's often some bad news to balance it. In this case, it's that the state's current strategy is underfunded and this may prevent us from reaching the goal. In fact, it's not just more money that's needed, it's policy changes as well, the CBF declared.

Opposing bills tackle manure regulations in Md.

SALISBURY DAILY TIMES ANNAPOLIS -- Three days after Eastern Shore environmental advocates argued in Annapolis for toughened regulations to reduce manure pollutants in waterways, the Eastern Shore's representative in Congress told an audience in Salisbury that the economy would take priority over the Chesapeake Bay because, frankly, clean water costs money. Both views capture the race to save both the bay and the Delmarva Peninsula poultry industry that drives the economy. There is harsh criticism for the amount of chicken litter generated on the Delmarva Peninsula. One environmentalist said the volume of waste from poultry equated to the volume of 100 million people. "That's a lot of doo-doo," said Bob Gallagher, an official at West/Rhode Riverkeeper Inc., an environmental watch group.

Md. Sen. committee passes governor's septic bill

ASSOCIATED PRESS (Md.) ANNAPOLIS, Md. (AP) - A Maryland Senate committee has signed off on a bill to limit where new septic systems can be installed. Senate Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee Chairwoman Joan Carter Conway said the committee supported the measure in a 7 to 4 vote Friday afternoon. The bill, sponsored by Gov. Martin O'Malley, failed to gain traction last year and was altered to create a tiered system local governments would use to determine what areas are eligible to put new septic systems. Proponents of the legislation say septic systems for individual homes cause more pollution than public water and sewer systems. Conway, a Baltimore Democrat, said the committee significantly amended the bill Friday and expects lengthy debate on the Senate floor.

Pittsylvania County Superfund site stable, monitored

WSLS-TV (Va.) Most of the contamination at a former rock quarry and industrial waste site, a designated Environmental Protection Agency Superfund site, in Pittsylvania County has been cleaned up and the site will continue to be monitored. "In summary, the remedy at the site is in place and working," said Roy Seneca, EPA Region 3 spokesman. Yet, the EPA would now like to address zinc levels above background levels in a stream near the site. The former landfill along Lawless Creek Road in Blairs operated by First Piedmont Corp. of Chatham has been capped, fenced in and surrounded by monitoring wells. Water running through the site is pumped out and transported to a local water treatment facility. Long-term human health protection has been achieved, according to EPA reports. The site was listed as a Superfund site in 1987 after the EPA investigated industrial wastes from Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co. and Corning disposed of there from 1970 to 1972. Waste along the edge of the site was removed and most remained in the former quarry and was capped, said First Piedmont Chairman Ben Davenport.

Pittsburgh-area site is chosen for major refinery

ASSOCIATED PRESS (Pa.) PITTSBURGH - Shell Oil Co. has chosen a site near Pittsburgh for a major, multi-billion-dollar petrochemical refinery that could create thousands of construction jobs and provide a huge economic boost to the region. Dan Carlson, Shell's General Manager of New Business Development, said Thursday that the company signed a land option agreement with Horsehead Corp. to evaluate a site near Monaca, about 35 miles northwest of Pittsburgh. The so-called ethane cracking, or cracker, plant would convert ethane from bountiful Marcellus Shale natural gas liquids into more profitable chemicals such as ethylene, which are then used to produce everything from plastics to tires to antifreeze. The plants are called crackers because they use heat and other processes to break the ethane molecules into smaller chemical components. A cracker plant looks very similar to a gasoline refinery, with miles of pipes and large storage tanks. The final complex could cover several hundred acres.

Moving crude oil by truck and train could help Philly refineries

PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER A big factor in the plight of Philadelphia-area refineries is the premium price they must pay for imported crude oil compared with the lower cost their competitors pay for petroleum. But what if there were a cheaper source for the light sweet crude needed here as a raw material? Actually, there is. In the last five years, oil production has increased dramatically in North Dakota, where producers are employing the same hydraulic fracturing method used to extract natural gas from Pennsylvania's Marcellus Shale. The North Dakota boom is one of the reasons that everybody from President Obama to the American Petroleum Institute is crowing about a turnaround in U.S. oil production.

Saving jobs key issue at Homer City plant hearing

PITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE HOMER CITY, Pa. -- In the shadow of the nation's second-tallest smokestack, it was the promise of jobs -- not environmental health benefits -- that pulled more than 500 people into a state Department of Environmental Protection hearing to support a proposed \$725 million pollution abatement project at the coal-fired Homer City power plant. The mostly blue-collar crowd packing the Homer-Central High School auditorium Wednesday bristled with testosterone and teamsters, boilermakers and coal miners, steelworkers and electricians, all of them enthusiastic in urging quick approval of a permit application by Edison Mission Energy, the plant's operator, to install emissions controls at the 43-year-old power plant 50 miles east of Pittsburgh.

PENNSYLVANIA

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From Early Bird Moving crude oil by truck and train could help Philly refineries A big factor in the plight of Philadelphia-area refineries is the premium price they must pay for imported crude oil compared with the lower cost their competitors pay for petroleum. But what if there were a cheaper source for the light sweet crude needed here as a raw material? Actually, there is. In the last five years, oil production has increased dramatically in North Dakota, where producers are employing the same hydraulic fracturing method used to extract natural gas from Pennsylvania's Marcellus Shale. The North Dakota boom is one of the reasons that everybody from President Obama to the American Petroleum Institute is crowing about a turnaround in U.S. oil production.

From Early Bird Congress sets hearing on refineries Congress' Joint Economic Committee will hold a hearing in April on the potential consumer impact of the shutdown of oil refineries, including three refineries in the Philadelphia area that represent half the refining capacity in the Northeast. "Rising gas prices coupled with decreasing refining capacity on the East Coast raise serious questions about our ability to ensure an adequate supply of affordable fuel for American consumers," said Sen. Bob Casey (D., Pa.), chairman of the committee. The hearing will be at 2:15 p.m. April 26 in Washington at a place to be announced later. Philadelphia-area refiners say they're shutting down production because the business is unprofitable; they say there are too many refiners serving a declining U.S. market for motor fuel even as they have to pay higher prices for imported crude. Sunoco Inc. has shut down its Marcus Hook refinery and says it will close its Philadelphia refinery by July 1 if it can't find a buyer. ConocoPhillips Co. shut its plant in Trainer last year.

PITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE

From Early Bird Saving jobs key issue at Homer City plant hearing HOMER CITY, Pa. -- In the shadow of the nation's second-tallest smokestack, it was the promise of jobs -- not environmental health benefits -- that pulled more than 500 people into a state Department of Environmental Protection hearing to support a proposed \$725 million pollution abatement project at the coal-fired Homer City power plant. The mostly blue-collar crowd packing the Homer-Central High School auditorium Wednesday bristled with testosterone and teamsters, boilermakers and coal miners, steelworkers and electricians, all of them enthusiastic in urging quick approval of a permit application by Edison Mission Energy, the plant's operator, to install emissions controls at the 43-year-old power plant 50 miles east of Pittsburgh.

Proposal would authorize impact fee on shale drilling Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald has proposed legislation that would authorize an impact fee on Marcellus Shale natural-gas wells across the county. Mr. Fitzgerald sent the proposal to county council, which will get its first look at the measure on Tuesday. The new fees are permitted under state Act 13, which was passed by the Legislature and signed by Gov. Tom Corbett last month.

Shell's Beaver County plant likely to spark tech jobs

An ethylene cracking plant that Shell Oil Co. could build in Beaver County's Potter Township may generate hundreds of technical jobs that would demand a chemistry-savvy workforce, experts said Friday.

Gas central: The Pa. cracker site is brimming with promise Now this could be a game changer. The announcement Thursday that Western Pennsylvania had won the multistate competition for Shell Oil Co.'s petrochemical "cracker" plant is worth applauding. The option purchased on the 300-acre site in Potter Township, Beaver County, means that if preliminary studies and plans go well, work on the billion-dollar-plus facility could begin in two years. Optimistic estimates say that 10,000 jobs could be generated during construction and several hundred permanent workers would be needed to operate the plant. An outgrowth of the burgeoning Marcellus Shale drilling industry in Pennsylvania, the cracker would process natural gas compounds into plastics and other materials. Gov. Tom Corbett and others worked diligently, and very much under the radar, to beat out other states, including West Virginia and Ohio, for the plant.

Post-Gazette shale website wins top prize Pipeline, the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette's interactive website on news and

issues surrounding development of the Marcellus Shale, has won the top award for environmental reporting in the Scripps Howard Foundation's National Journalism Awards contest. The Pipeline team, led by Erich Schwartzel and Elisabeth Ponsot and comprising reporters in Pittsburgh and Harrisburg, Web editors, data specialists and videographers, will receive \$10,000 in prize money and be honored at a dinner in Detroit in late April.

Corbett says "cracker" plant a job provider to state's students

Gov. Tom Governor touted Pennsylvania as the prime location for the anticipated Appalachian petrochemical "cracker" plant for many reasons: location along the river, access to rails and highways, and an abundance of natural gas.

SCRANTON TIMES-TRIBUNE

From Early Bird EPA not yet 'drawing conclusions' about full Dimock picture

The first 11 Dimock Twp. water supplies tested by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency did not reveal levels of contamination that could present a health concern, but the samples indicated the presence of arsenic and other compounds that will require further tests at some homes, the agency said Thursday. Agency officials hand delivered test results to residents whose wells were sampled during the week of Jan. 23 and will meet again with the families individually to review the results and answer questions. The first test results reported Thursday represent about a sixth of the data collected by the EPA over weeks of sampling in a 9-square-mile area of Dimock where the agency is investigating the potential impact of nearby natural gas drilling on water supplies. In a statement Thursday, the EPA said samples from six of the 11 homes showed concentrations of sodium, methane, chromium or bacteria, but all were within the safe range for drinking water. The sampling results also identified arsenic in two homes' water supplies, both of which are being sampled again by the agency. "Although the (arsenic) levels meet drinking water standards, we will resample to better characterize the water quality of these wells," EPA spokesman Roy Seneca said in the statement. But above the 3 micrograms per liter chronic drinking water screening level for children established by the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry.

STATEIMPACT

From Early Bird Environmentalists Critical of EPA's Dimock Results, EPA Releases Sampling Plan Environmental groups say the EPA jumped the gun by releasing only a handful of Dimock water results before all households' tests were complete. The Sierra Club issued a statement Thursday night declaring their support for the residents along Carter road who say Cabot Oil and Gas caused their water wells to run foul. "Again today, the cry for clean water in Dimock was left unheard and Cabot Corp must be held accountable for the destruction they caused," said Sierra Club's Deb Nardone, in a press release. "The victim families of Dimock know that their water isn't fit to drink, and the Sierra Club will stand by them until we find a permanent solution." Water Defense, a group started by actor Mark Ruffalo, had a more extensive critique of the EPA's actions.

ASSOCIATED PRESS (Pa.)

From Early Bird Feds find Dimock well water OK in dispute over Marcellus drilling SCRANTON, Pa. -- Federal environmental regulators said Thursday that well-water testing at 11 homes in a northeastern Pennsylvania village where a gas driller was accused of polluting the aquifer failed to show elevated levels of contamination. The Environmental Protection Agency, which is sampling well water at dozens of homes in Dimock, Susquehanna County, said initial test results "did not show levels of contamination that could present a health concern." Dimock has been at the center of a fierce debate over the environmental and public health impacts of Pennsylvania's Marcellus Shale drilling industry.

From Early Bird Pittsburgh-area site is chosen for major refinery

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option agreement with Horsehead Corp. to evaluate a site near Monaca, about 35 miles northwest of Pittsburgh. The so-called ethane cracking, or cracker, plant would convert ethane from bountiful Marcellus Shale natural gas liquids into more profitable chemicals such as ethylene, which are then used to produce everything from plastics to tires to antifreeze. The plants are called crackers because they use heat and other processes to break the ethane molecules into smaller chemical components. A cracker plant looks very similar to a gasoline refinery, with miles of pipes and large storage tanks. The final complex could cover several hundred acres.

PITTSBURGH TRIBUNE REVIEW

Drilling fees appeal to Armstrong County officials If officials approve a fee allowed by a new state law, Armstrong County would collect about \$5.6 million and keep more than \$3 million for the county and its municipalities this year from the Marcellus shale gas well drilling industry. The commissioners on Thursday discussed the state's recently enacted Marcellus legislation, which gives counties the option of imposing an impact fee on each deep-shale horizontal gas well. The commissioners had planned to approve the fee on Thursday. An ordinance was to be approved at the public meeting, but commissioners opted to re-advertise it for voting when they meet at 1:30 p.m. April 5. They have until April 16 to approve it. "It's an important decision. There may be questions on how it works," said Commissioner Chairman Dave Battaglia of postponing the vote. Battaglia said the board supports the fee ordinance and will likely adopt it. Many of the state's counties are expected to do the same.

Gas pipeline proliferation worries Marcellus Outreach Butler A Butler County community group opposed to Marcellus shale natural gas drilling wants elected leaders to know it has concerns about the potential for gas pipelines to crisscross the landscape. Marcellus Outreach Butler (MOB) is asking those with concerns about the potential number of lines and how closely they will be regulated to write, call or visit politicians at all levels. "This is part of the structure of the whole Marcellus shale (play)," Diane Arnold, an official with the organization, told the roughly 40 people who attended an informational meeting Saturday at Butler Public Library.

HAZLETON STANDARD-SPEAKER

Broadcaster responsible for clean-up

Responsibility for offsetting damage done to the Blue Mountain by nearly 90 years of zinc smelting fell to a company known for television broadcasting. Mergers made CBS successor to companies including New Jersey Zinc and Horseheads that smelted zinc at Palmerton from 1898 to 1980. CBS pays for replanting land by aircraft and more conventional landscaping. Federal Project Manager Charlie Root said CBS and three other companies are part of the settlement. They include two firms affiliated with Horseheads and TCI Pacific Communications, which has contractual relations with CBS, Root said. In the agreement, CBS and its predecessors also donated 1,100 acres worth \$8.72 million as part of the agreement. The land is about 35 miles from Blue Mountain has become part of State Game Land 168 in Monroe County. CBS paid \$9.875 million in cash and contributed \$2.5 million to assess damage costs, according to the agreement. A \$330,000 mortgage for the Lehigh Gap Nature Center also was paid through the agreement.

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Lower Macungie now regulates outdoor fuel-burning appliances

The new law does not apply to charcoal, gas, propane or gas grills. Lower Macungie Township now officially regulates outdoor fuel-burning appliances after approving a new ordinance last Thursday. The new law is designed to limit pollution as well as health problems, such as asthma and respiratory diseases, it causes. "The EPA has kind of caught up to the industry and they have standards that are reflected in this ordinance for the design of furnaces," said Sara Pandl, the township's planning director.

WILLIAMSPORT SUN-GAZETTE

409 taxable parcels removed since 2000 Just three weeks ago, City Council decried the removal of a single property along West Fourth Street to create space for the Williamsport Area School District during a period in which community leaders have struggled to find a solution to the housing crisis. ... Over the past 12 years, the city has lost population and experienced multiple demolitions that took 409 taxable parcels off the tax rolls, according to Thomas P. O'Connor Jr., city treasurer. By 2008, the city began to face a housing shortage brought on by the introduction of Marcellus Shale and natural gas workers needing places to live as well as interns in the medical field, nurses and others in trades and professions.

Official: \$400 monthly rents have faded out

The term "housing shortage" has been used with regularity by city officials, much of it blamed on the Marcellus Shale boom needs and expansion of the Williamsport Regional Medical Center and Lycoming College and Pennsylvania College of Technology taking up taxable properties. But is there actually a reduction in the number of places for people to live in the city?

CENTRAL PENN BUSINESS JOURNAL

PennEnvironment report calls for energy-efficient buildings Pennsylvania and the U.S. as a whole can cut energy use in buildings by nearly a quarter by 2030 by adopting new technology and more stringent building codes, PennEnvironment said in a report this week. That would decrease global warming pollution from the nation's building stock by 30 percent, the Harrisburg-based environmental group said. Residential electric bills could drop by 34 percent, saving homeowners \$450 a year on average, PennEnvironment said.

PITTSBURGH BUSINESS NEWS

Corbett: Shell decision the first pitch in the game

As Gov. Tom Corbett describes it, news that Royal Dutch Shell has selected southwestern Pennsylvania as a

possible location for a \$3 billion natural gas processing plant is the “first pitch in a nine-inning game.” It’s not a done deal yet. Up ahead are environmental analyses, engineering design studies and assessments of the local ethane supply but the potential for such a facility, called a cracker, has the administration and the region’s business community excited about the future. “We are still early in the process, but my administration is determined to see this project through to completion,” said Corbett.

CENTRE DAILY TIMES

School districts cope with gas boom

UNIVERSITY PARK — Rapid, large-scale development of the Marcellus Shale is having an impact on many Pennsylvania school districts, education experts said at a conference Thursday intended to offer information on coping with the gas boom. Thursday’s conference, “Understanding and Preparing for Marcellus Shale Impacts in Your School District,” attracted superintendents, school board members and education officials from across the commonwealth, as well as Ohio and New York Experts from Penn State warned districts to expect more traffic, worse roads and little new funding, but also more job opportunities for graduates. “There’s a firestorm coming their way, and anything they can do to prepare for it is important,” said Barry Scheetz, a professor of civil engineering at Penn State who has studied the impact the gas industry has had on Pennsylvania’s roads. “If they can learn from here what to expect, they’re going to be far, far better off.”

County may get less from fee A possible change in the way Marcellus Shale wells will be counted in a statewide impact fee could mean less money for Centre County than anticipated. Board of Commissioners Chairman Steve Dershem said Friday that there may be a modification in the number of wells that would qualify in the county and around the state. “There has been a lot of jostling around with the actual number of wells that qualify,” he said. “There is a discrepancy between what the state considers and what the county considers.” Dershem said the difference could be about \$70,000. The county believed it would receive about \$570,000 for wells drilled between 2005 and 2011. The new number could be closer to \$500,000.

ABINGTON JOURNAL

Ransom addresses gas well request RANSOM TWP – More than 40 Ransom Township residents packed the Board of Supervisors meeting March 5. Supervisor Dennis Macheska read aloud a notice stating that Falling Springs Water Works, Inc. filed an application for approval with the Susquehanna River Basin Commission for surface water withdrawal of up to 800,000 gallons of water per day from the Falling Springs Reservoir for use in the development of natural gas wells in the Marcellus Shale Region. Pa. State Police Motor Carrier Enforcement Supervisor Rion Stann was in attendance at the request of the supervisors to explain the current rules in existence for heavy trucks traveling local roads.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

WASHINGTON POST

From Early Bird Stink bugs migrating South

On the front line of the brown marmorated stink bug invasion, Doug Inkley was overrun. Over nine months last year, he counted, bug by bug, 56,205 in his house and garden. They were everywhere. “I literally have made homemade chili and had to throw it out because there were stink bugs in it,” said Inkley, who lives in Knoxville, Md., near the West Virginia border. “I have had people refuse to come over for dinner because they knew about my stink bug problem.”

DCIST

"Hades" to Be Unearthed in Contaminated Spring Valley Neighborhood The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has spent the past two decades trying to clean up the remnants of a World War I-era weapons-testing range located in what is today the upscale Northwest D.C. neighborhood of Spring Valley. And, according to a report in The New York Times yesterday, cleanup teams might finally be zeroing in on one of the nexuses of the damage by demolishing a stately brick house that might be on top of a chemical burial pit nicknamed "Hades." By figuratively unleashing Hell, Corps of Engineers teams working on Spring Valley's decontamination might find a major stockpile of early-20th-century mustard gas canisters that many believe damaged the soil and made residents susceptible to respiratory and endocrine diseases that can be traced to arsenic.

DELAWARE

WILMINGTON NEWS JOURNAL

From Early Bird Delaware Bay oil lightering service in line for break... Since 2009, the lightering fee has contributed to the state's Hazardous Substance Cleanup Act fund, which is primarily capitalized by a tax on wholesale petroleum products and is used to pay for the remediation of contaminated land statewide. David Small, DNREC deputy secretary, said the fund is projected to take in more than \$15 million this year, so the loss of \$100,000 isn't considered significant by the department. "At the level of funding that's coming into the program, we certainly can sustain a \$100,000 reduction," he said.

Cover-up alleged in Atkins tire fire

State environmental officials are reviewing a complaint that the agency let state Rep. John Atkins off the hook for illegal tire burning at his father-in-law's farm, and that its investigator was misled by witnesses, including Georgetown's fire chief, a friend of Atkins'. The unusual action by the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control was prompted by letters written by a former state trooper who allegedly punched Atkins during a dispute over the illegal burning, said David S. Small, the agency's deputy secretary. onmental officials are reviewing a complaint that the agency let state Rep. John Atkins off the hook for illegal tire burning at his father-in-law's farm, and that its investigator was misled by witnesses, including Georgetown's fire chief, a friend of Atkins'. The unusual action by the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control was prompted by letters written by a former state trooper who allegedly punched Atkins during a dispute over the illegal burning, said David S. Small, the agency's deputy secretary.

DELAWARE COAST PRESS

From Early Bird Federal grant money at stake for Marine Education, Research and Rehabilitation Institute LEWES -- It started out as one of Delaware's most endearing environmental success stories of late 2011 -- the hatch and release of eight baby green sea turtles. But that event has sparked a dispute between the state Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control and the nonprofit Marine Education, Research and Rehabilitation Institute. At stake for MERR is federal grant money that is the backbone of its program operations and a state-issued operating agreement as the Delaware's designated marine stranding response unit. Without the latter, the organization would not be able to continue its operations.

NEWARK POST

From Early Bird Delaware supports federal rule to fight air pollution Wilmington – Delaware Attorney General Beau Biden and eleven other states, plus New York City and the District of Columbia fought back Friday against attempts to weaken the Environmental Protection Agency's work to significantly cut the amount of mercury

pollution that electric power plants release into the air. “Mercury pollution can be very harmful to our health,” Biden said. “A lot of the pollution in Delaware’s air comes from sources outside of our borders, and the EPA is doing the right thing in acting to cut down on harmful emissions across the country.” The attorneys general filed a brief in federal court today asking to be allowed to intervene and defend the Environmental Protection Agency’s (“EPA”) Mercury and Air Toxics Standards (“MATS”). The other states participating in the filing include Connecticut, Illinois, Iowa, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Mexico, New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont. The motion to intervene was filed in the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit.

WRW

From Early Bird Harris Creek oyster restoration effort planned

ST. MICHAELS, Md. (WTW) — The Maryland Department of Natural Resources says state and federal officials are planning a major oyster restoration effort for Harris Creek on the Eastern Shore. DNR officials along with their counterparts from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers plan to discuss the effort Wednesday at the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum in St. Michaels.

CAPE GAZETTE

DNREC public workshops March 22, 29 will discuss new regulations

The Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control will continue a series of public workshops this month in Kent and Sussex counties for commercial pesticide applicators in Delaware who spray in or near water. The workshops are in response to new emergency regulatory requirements administered through DNREC’s National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System, which will now additionally permit aquatic pesticide applications. The emergency Regulations Governing Discharges From the Application of Pesticides to Waters of the State will allow pesticide applicators to obtain the required NPDES permit coverage for applying aquatic pesticides from March through September 2012. In Delaware, the regulation will apply only to commercial applicators (certified through the Delaware Department of Agriculture) within certain categories.

MIDDLETOWN TRANSCRIPT

Environmental group begins second phase of Delaware City air monitoring project

Delaware City, Del. — The second phase of a project monitoring the air quality near the Delaware City Refinery kicked off Wednesday and will continue for the next two weeks. Last March the Delaware City Environmental Coalition monitored the air quality in the same area to get a baseline reading while the refinery was still closed, Sarah Bucic, founder of DCEC and a Delaware City resident said. The results in this year’s test will be compared to the previous ones to see the change in air quality since the refinery’s re-opening. “We do the same two weeks each year,” Bucic said. “Now that [the refinery] is up and running, we can capture the before and after data.”

WEST VIRGINIA

CHARLESTON GAZETTE

From Early Bird Statehouse beat: The real prize with a cracker plant

From Early Bird Water Development Authority building \$3.2M offices on vacant lot

From Early Bird Tire collection set for Gilmer County

Ethane cracker plant might be built in Institute CHARLESTON, W.Va. -- South Charleston-based Aither

Chemicals is expected to announce plans next week to build a \$300 million ethane catalytic "cracker" plant that would employ up to 200 workers at the Institute Industrial Park by 2015, according to state officials and economic development leaders familiar with the deal. Aither plans to partner with Bayer CropScience and MarkWest Energy on the cracker project. The petrochemical facility would convert ethane from the Marcellus Shale into ethylene, which is used to make plastics.

Phil Kabler: Statehouse beat: The real prize with a cracker plant The schadenfreude that state Republicans expressed over West Virginia's failure to land the Shell chemical ethane cracker plant seems both untoward and premature. With multiple players interested in developing cracker plants in the Marcellus Shale basin (including multinational companies like Brazil-based Braskem), this was never a one-strike-and-you're-out competition. Privately, Tomblin administration officials had said that of the major players, Shell was probably the long shot at locating in West Virginia. Braskem supposedly is the more interested corporate player.

WEST VIRGINIA STATE JOURNAL

From Early Bird Initial results of EPA water study released

Initial test results of drinking water in several Dimock, Pa., homes show no signs of dangerous pollution. Residents in the community had expressed concerns that their water was being contaminated by nearby Marcellus shale drilling operations. The federal Environmental Protection Agency said it would test approximately 60 homes in one part of Dimock. Tests began on Jan. 19. "The first round of sampling results is now available for the first 11 homes that were tested during the week of Jan. 23. Sampling results from these 11 homes did not show levels of contamination that could present a health concern," the EPA said in a released statement. "Samples from six of the 11 homes did show concentrations of sodium, methane, chromium or bacteria, but concentrations were all within the safe range for drinking water. The sampling results also identified the presence of arsenic at two homes." Three of the homes tested had been receiving drinking water from the EPA, which will continue until testing is complete.

From Early Bird Study: CO2 sequestration potential squeezed by shale gas A new study points out that aside from losing share of power generation and disputing over mineral rights, coal may have yet another conflict with the natural gas industry. According to Thomas Eliot and Michael Celia in a study accepted for publication by Environmental Science and Technology, efforts to sequester carbon could be hindered by shale and tight gas drilling operations. "Production of natural gas from shale and other tight formations involves fracturing the shale with the explicit objective to greatly increase the permeability of the shale," authors of the study write. "As such, shale gas production is in direct conflict with the use of shale formations as a caprock barrier to CO2 migration."

WV policy questioned in wake of cracker announcement West Virginia seemingly gave all it had to attract a world-class ethane cracking facility within its borders, but the state took a big morale hit Thursday afternoon when Shell Chemicals said it was looking to Pennsylvania instead. The very first bill of the West Virginia legislative session was a tax incentive worth an estimated \$300 million in property taxes. Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin touted the economic benefit and importance of an ethane cracker since he has been in office.

Shell cracker site currently occupied by a zinc smelter

To build an ethane cracker in southwestern Pennsylvania, Shell Chemical will displace the largest zinc smelter in the United States. The site Shell chose for its multibillion-dollar project is currently owned and occupied by Horsehead Corp. In its announcement, Shell said it has purchased an option to buy the Horsehead property. Thursday, Horsehead announced that the Shell decision would finish its process of relocating its operation in Pennsylvania to North Carolina.

Tomblin congratulates PA on cracker, remains hopeful that 2nd plant will be built in WV CHARLESTON -Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin told media Thursday afternoon that West Virginia was aggressive in its fight for an ethane cracker facility, but Shell Chemical just needed more space. Shell announced Thursday afternoon that it would build a cracker in Beaver, Pa. Tomblin said the location is about 10 miles beyond the West Virginia border, and the Mountain State

would benefit from the location."I congratulate our neighbor to the north," Tomblin said. Tomblin said he spoke with Shell Vice President for New Business Development and Ventures Iain Lo Wednesday evening, and the conversation was friendly.

PARKERSBURG NEWS & SENTINEL

Waiting to cash in HARRISVILLE - Gas and oil industry officials often talk about the economic boom Marcellus Shale will bring to the state of West Virginia. Pipelines, processing plants and other facilities tied in with the shale sources purportedly represent billions of dollars in commitments and investments. Officials in Ritchie County are waiting and remain hopeful that such development will come. County Commission President Lavada Williamson said Marcellus Shale development isn't big business in Ritchie County, at least not yet. "There is a potential boom," Williamson said. According to the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection, 53 gas and oil wells are active in Ritchie County, including two commercial brine disposal wells. Ritchie County Assessor Arlene Mossor said about 10,000 wells dot the county landscape. "I didn't think they could put another hole in the ground," she said. None of those wells are into the Marcellus Shale and many are old with little to no production. Companies have reported production losses of almost \$50 million over the last two years from Ritchie County wells.

ASSOCIATED PRESS (W. Va.)

AP Sources: WV cracker site encroached on casino CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP) — West Virginia lost the battle to attract Shell's multibillion-dollar chemical plant because of the costs of relocating a casino that occupies the company's in-state choice for a site, sources told The Associated Press. Shell announced plans Thursday to build the so-called "cracker" plant in Monaca, Pa., about 12 miles from the West Virginia border. Two individuals with direct knowledge of the negotiations with Shell, but who were unauthorized to speak publicly about them, said the company's preferred West Virginia location encroached on Mountaineer Casino, Racetrack and Resort.

MARYLAND

BALTIMORE SUN

From Early Bird O'Malley's septic bill clears Senate panel

One important piece of Gov. Martin O'Malley's legislative agenda took a small step forward Friday as a Senate panel approved legislation that seeks to control the spread of housing developments on septic systems. The Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee voted 7-4 for the environmental legislation over the resistance of rural lawmakers. The bill goes to the Senate floor next week.

From Early Bird Fort Howard redevelopment plans moving forward A decade after the Department of Veterans Affairs closed its hospital at Fort Howard, most of the buildings at the sprawling Baltimore County waterfront property are boarded up. A big rusty pole in front of the old facility has no flag. But there are plans to turn the site into a huge, mixed-use development for veterans and senior citizens. Nearby residents oppose the developer's proposal, but the Department of Veterans Affairs is moving forward with the project, which has the backing of elected officials. It's not the first time someone's had big ideas for Fort Howard — and many in the community are skeptical after other plans to build homes there fell through, leaving some veterans with nothing to show for the payments they put down. Their concerns haven't changed since more than 200 people packed an Edgemere fire hall in November to speak out about the project. Some worry about traffic on narrow North Point Road. Others want the site to be set aside exclusively for veterans. A small outpatient clinic still operates there.

SALISBURY DAILY TIMES

From Early Bird Our View: Good and bad news on the Chesapeake Bay

We're halfway to recovery but more effort is needed. After decades of effort, redirection, study and planning, the good news is that Maryland is more than halfway to achieving its Chesapeake Bay restoration goals, according to the the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. But whenever good news is cited, there's often some bad news to balance it. In this case, it's that the state's current strategy is underfunded and this may prevent us from reaching the goal. In fact, it's not just more money that's needed, it's policy changes as well, the CBF declared.

From Early Bird Opposing bills tackle manure regulations in mMd.

ANNAPOLIS -- Three days after Eastern Shore environmental advocates argued in Annapolis for toughened regulations to reduce manure pollutants in waterways, the Eastern Shore's representative in Congress told an audience in Salisbury that the economy would take priority over the Chesapeake Bay because, frankly, clean water costs money. Both views capture the race to save both the bay and the Delmarva Peninsula poultry industry that drives the economy. There is harsh criticism for the amount of chicken litter generated on the Delmarva Peninsula. One environmentalist said the volume of waste from poultry equated to the volume of 100 million people. "That's a lot of doo-doo," said Bob Gallagher, an official at West/Rhode Riverkeeper Inc., an environmental watch group.

From Early Bird John J. Congedo: Wind energy poised to create jobs in the Salisbury are

For too many years in Maryland, we have seen the cost of failing to invest in new opportunities when established industries fade away. Bethlehem Steel was once a major economic driver, but lost ground when imported steel challenged U.S. steelmakers. Thousands of Baltimore workers lost their jobs. Bayliner in Salisbury, which employed hundreds for years with good jobs and a secure work environment, suffered a similar fate. New opportunities today exist in the clean energy sector. Maryland could stand at the forefront if it acts now.

ASSOCIATED PRESS (Md.)

Md. Sen. committee passes governor's septic bill ANNAPOLIS, Md. (AP) - A Maryland Senate committee has signed off on a bill to limit where new septic systems can be installed. Senate Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee Chairwoman Joan Carter Conway said the committee supported the measure in a 7 to 4 vote Friday afternoon. The bill, sponsored by Gov. Martin O'Malley, failed to gain traction last year and was altered to create a tiered system local governments would use to determine what areas are eligible to put new septic systems. Proponents of the legislation say septic systems for individual homes cause more pollution than public water and sewer systems. Conway, a Baltimore Democrat, said the committee significantly amended the bill Friday and expects lengthy debate on the Senate floor.

HAGERSTOWN HERALD-MAIL

City/County Landfill leachate-collection upgrade expanded The discovery of leachate seeps from the old City/County Landfill along Conococheague Creek has led the county to expand the scope — and price tag — of a scheduled upgrade to the landfill's leachate-collection system, Washington County officials said last week. "As we were working the site to figure out exactly what needed done, we discovered not just one leachate seep, but five or six leachate seeps along the actual hillside," county environmental engineer David A. Mason told the Board of County Commissioners Tuesday as he explained why the cost of the project's design and engineering was increasing up to \$82,000. The county also released results of additional test results from water seeping from the landfill, including one sample that showed an arsenic level more than eight times the standard for safe drinking water. The discovery of leachate seeps from the old City/County Landfill along Conococheague Creek has led the county to expand the scope — and price tag — of a scheduled upgrade to the landfill's leachate-collection system, Washington County officials said last week. ... The county also released results of additional test results from water seeping from the landfill, including one sample that showed an arsenic level more than eight times the standard for safe drinking water.

SOUTHERN MARYLAND ONLINE

From Early Bird Md. AG Intervenes to Protect EPA Mercury Emission Standards

Gansler: Mercury emissions endanger young children, pose multiple health threats. BALTIMORE (March 16, 2012) -- Attorney General Douglas F. Gansler, representing the Maryland Department of the Environment, is defending the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Mercury and Air Toxics Standards (MATS) rule against an appeal in federal court, arguing that mercury emissions by electric power plants are highly toxic and a threat to public health. Attorney General Gansler is joined by the Attorneys General from Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, Iowa, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Mexico, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont and the District of Columbia in these efforts.

VIRGINIA

RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH

From Early Bird Environmental activist Louise Burke dies

ASSOCIATED PRESS (Va.)

From Early Bird DEQ: Time running out for Altavista to remove PCBs

ALTAVISTA, Va. (AP) -- State regulators say time is running out for Altavista to remove PCBs contamination from its wastewater pond. The News & Advance (<http://bit.ly/xgBJll>) reports that the Department of Environmental Quality warned the town last month that it could be removed from the state's voluntary remediation program if the site can't be cleaned up by late 2013 or early 2014. The department says the level of PCBs in the 6-acre pond hasn't changed since 2002. Altavista officials plan to ask the department to extend the deadline. They want to conduct tests to determine whether an experimental method can be used to remove the contamination. The department says such methods could take decades to show progress and carry a number of risks.

From Early Bird Va. group promotes energy efficiency in buildings

RICHMOND, Va. -- RICHMOND, Va. (AP) An environmental group says improving buildings' energy efficiency is good for the wallets of Virginia families. In a report released Thursday, the Environment Virginia Research & Policy Center says investing in energy-efficient buildings now could cut the average Virginia family's electricity bills by about \$503 annually by 2030. The report also says energy-efficient buildings would reduce pollution. Environment Virginia says building codes should be revised to improve the energy efficiency of new buildings. The group also calls for government investments in weatherization and energy retrofits.

WSLS-TV (Va.)

From Early Bird Pittsylvania County Superfund site stable, monitored

Most of the contamination at a former rock quarry and industrial waste site, a designated Environmental Protection Agency Superfund site, in Pittsylvania County has been cleaned up and the site will continue to be monitored. "In summary, the remedy at the site is in place and working," said Roy Seneca, EPA Region 3 spokesman. Yet, the EPA would now like to address zinc levels above background levels in a stream near the site. The former landfill along Lawless Creek Road in Blairs operated by First Piedmont Corp. of Chatham has been capped, fenced in and surrounded by monitoring wells. Water running through the site is pumped out and transported to a local water treatment facility. Long-term human health protection has been achieved, according to EPA reports. The site was listed as a Superfund site in 1987 after the EPA investigated industrial wastes from Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co. and Corning disposed of there from 1970 to 1972. Waste along the edge of the site was removed and most remained in the former quarry and was capped, said First Piedmont Chairman Ben Davenport.

GODANRIVER.COM

DEQ says time running out for Altavista to address PCB contamination Since 2000, the Town of Altavista has been trying to figure out how to remove the toxic contaminants stuck beneath a six-acre pond less than 300 feet from the Staunton River. Now, for the Department of Environmental Quality at least, it soon may be too late. Altavista has been under voluntary DEQ oversight for more than 10 years. In the most recent revision of its contract with the state, the town agreed to have the PCBs, or polychlorinated biphenyls, removed from the municipal wastewater pond by early 2014 at the latest. The PCBs, which have been present for decades thanks to now-defunct manufacturing industries, don't put residents at great risk for exposure, but are well above federally acceptable levels. Because of the public health concern over the toxins and the difficulties in removal, the DEQ has a voluntary remediation program designed to help guide localities through the process. Altavista is one of about 150 sites statewide currently in the program, which helps the town establish goals and deadlines for the remediation.

LYNCHBURG NEWS & ADVANCE

Lessons learned from Superfund site When Ben Davenport voiced concerns about uranium mining in Pittsylvania County, uranium proponents decried the chairman of First Piedmont Corp., whose former landfill became a Superfund site, as a hypocrite. But Davenport said he is acting from lessons learned in his experience managing a waste disposal company and how regulations evolve over time. "Everything we did at the First Piedmont Rock Quarry site was in compliance with the local, state and federal regulations of the early 1970s," Davenport wrote in a statement. "What happened was that the science caught up with the practice and all around the country people realized the practice was harming the environment." Pittsylvania County native Kenneth O. Shelton, who now lives in Hilton Head Island, S.C., and others wrote letters to local newspaper editors criticizing Davenport. Shelton said he likes the Davenports, but doesn't like Ben Davenport's position on uranium mining. The former general manager of a Northern Virginia water and sewer utility owns a 185-acre farm adjacent to Virginia Uranium Inc.'s proposed site at Coles Hill. "What bothers me is all the regulations that have been adopted and implemented for the uranium mining and milling over the last 35 years and someone like Ben Davenport and First Piedmont come out against it and you find that they have terrorized the environment," said Shelton, who has never seen the former landfill site. "And that bothers me because it's hypocritical."

MISCELLANEOUS

ASSOCIATED PRESS

From Early Bird Cities considering uses for aged industrial plants BUFFALO, N.Y. — When Mary Lynne and Dan Kautz chose a place to hold their wedding reception, they didn't book a grand ballroom in some pricey hotel or a lavish suburban catering hall. Instead, they picked a crumbling, decrepit former train station in a run-down neighborhood on Buffalo's east side. Everything had to be brought to the Central Terminal, including food, beverages and portable restrooms. Nearly 300 guests danced amid the semi-ruin of the old main concourse to tunes played by a cover band powered by one of the generators set up because there were fewer than a dozen working electrical outlets in the cavernous building.

LOS ANGELES TIMES

From Early Bird A Q&A with DEP Commissioner Bob Martin Gov. Chris Christie's point man on the environment is Bob Martin, commissioner of the Department of Environmental Protection. At the midway point in the administration's term, he spoke about some of the hot-button issues with Tom Moran, editorial page editor of The Star-Ledger. An edited transcript appears below. **Q. Let's start with the new waiver rule that allows you to waive regulations. It has a lot of environmentalists deeply concerned. Explain what it is and why you need it.**A. If we could rename it, we'd call it the variance rule because it's close to what a zoning variance is. It's not a blanket waiver. It's used in limited situations and has tight guidelines. It allows us flexibility for several reasons,

like conflicting rules, undue hardship, net environmental benefit or public emergencies. **Q. Can you give an example?** A. Say you have a flood hazard situation, and at the same time, site-remediation regulations would say you should clean up the site. We'd have a conflict because the flood hazard rules would not allow a cleanup. **Q. How can we be sure that damaging waivers are not issued in response to political pressure or campaign donations?** A. Through transparency. We will post everything on our website, so the whole world can see. **Q. But big campaign donations can be from anonymous sources.** A. It's not about political donations. It's about transparency of the regulatory process. We're trying to do common-sense regulation. **Q. The DEP has reported that roughly one-third of our air pollution floats into New Jersey from states to our west. Can you explain why the governor decided against joining the multistate lawsuit intended to force new controls on coal plants in those states?**

THE PUBLIC RECORD

From Early Bird Fracking: Pennsylvania Gags Physicians Part One of a Three-Part Series. A new Pennsylvania law endangers public health by forbidding health care professionals from sharing information they learn about certain chemicals and procedures used in high volume horizontal hydraulic fracturing. The procedure is commonly known as fracking. Fracking is the controversial method of forcing water, gases, and chemicals at tremendous pressure of up to 15,000 pounds per square inch into a rock formation as much as 10,000 feet below the earth's surface to open channels and force out natural gas and fossil fuels.

SCIENCE CODEX

Study shows air emissions near fracking sites may impact health AURORA, Colo. -- In a new study, researchers from the Colorado School of Public Health have shown that air pollution caused by hydraulic fracturing or fracking may contribute to acute and chronic health problems for those living near natural gas drilling sites. "Our data show that it is important to include air pollution in the national dialogue on natural gas development that has focused largely on water exposures to hydraulic fracturing," said Lisa McKenzie, Ph.D., MPH, lead author of the study and research associate at the Colorado School of Public Health. The study will be published in an upcoming edition of *Science of the Total Environment*. The report, based on three years of monitoring, found a number of potentially toxic petroleum hydrocarbons in the air near the wells including benzene, ethylbenzene, toluene and xylene. Benzene has been identified by the Environmental Protection Agency as a known carcinogen. Other chemicals included heptane, octane and diethylbenzene but information on their toxicity is limited.

CHERRY HILL COURIER POST

Guides promote waterway

Rich Connor, a retired German teacher and athletic director at Moorestown High School, has reinvented himself as a tour guide on land and water. The Willingboro resident is a graduate of the Delaware River Ambassador Program, which is designed to promote recreational use of the river. He also squires buses of tourists around Old City Philadelphia for Centipede Tours. "Learning about both worlds has been a joy," says Connor, who also finds time to bike, fish and run around Rancocas Creek in his 14-foot motorboat.

NEW YORK TIMES

Zeroing In on Mystery of an Old Site Called Hades

WASHINGTON — For decades, affluent families have flocked to Spring Valley, a quiet neighborhood hugging the northwestern boundary of the nation's capital. True to its name, magnolias are blooming and daffodils carpet the yards. But during World War I, soldiers called it Death Valley. It was here that the Army cooked up chemical weapons, launched poison-packed mortar shells and sent gas clouds billowing over the fields. When the war ended, soldiers buried the fearsome chemicals and munitions in pits that the Army forgot existed. Now, the cleanup of what was known as the American University Experiment Station is nearing a crucial point. This spring, the Army Corps of Engineers plans to tear down a house that may be atop a lost burial pit that an Army sergeant called "Hades" in a grainy 1918 photograph.

